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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-06 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 /097 W
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R 241848Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4466
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - PARA 2 NEXT TO LAST LINE)

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, PGOV, PINT
SUBJ: LEGISLATIVE PREPARATIONS FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
DIRECT ELECTIONS--A BOX SCORE

REF: BRUSSELS 1170

1. DURING LAST WEEK'S PLENARY OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP),PARLIAMENTARIANS OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS WERE GENERALLY HEARTENED AT THE ASSERTION BY EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT, DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN, THAT HE HOPED A DATE FOR EP DIRECT ELECTIONS COULD BE SET BY THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AT ITS APRIL MEETING IN COPENHAGEN. THE MPS WERE, HOWEVER, SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED WHEN, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONING, ANDERSEN INDICATED SPRING 1979 AS THE EARLIEST LIKELY TIMEFRAME FOR EP DIRECT ELECTIONS.

2. FOR MANY PARLIAMENTARIANS AND EC MEMBER STATES, THE MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK TO ADHERENCE TO THE ORIGINAL MAY/JUNE
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1978 SCHEDULE FOR EP DIRECT ELECTIONS HAS BEEN AND REMAINS BRITISH DIFFICULTIES IN ADOPTING THE NECESSARY ELECTORAL LEGISLATION. WHILE THIS MAY BE TRUE, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT FEW MEMBER STATES HAVE COMPLETED THE REQUISITE NATIONAL PROCEDURES PROVIDING FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS PURSU-ANT TO THE EP ELECTORAL ACT OF SEPTEMBER 1976. TO DATE, ONLY DENMARK, FRANCE AND IRELAND HAVE ADOPTED ALL THE

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NECESSARY ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR EP DIRECT ELECTIONS. FIVE MEMBER STATES HAVE YET TO ADOPT LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE ELECTORAL SYSTEMS TO BE FOLLOWED. ONLY SIX MEMBER STATES HAVE OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED THE EC COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTAL OR PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION OF THE EP ELECTORAL ACT. (ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT, THE ACT DOES NOT ENTER INTO FORCE UNTIL THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN FORMALLY NOTIFIED BY ALL MEMBER STATES OF ITS RATIFICATION BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS OR PARLIAMENTS.) THE GENERAL ASSUMPTION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN THAT THE STATES FAILING SO FAR TO COMPLETE THE PROCEDURE FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS (EXCEPT FOR THE UK) WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MEET THE ORIGINAL MAY/JUNE 1978 DEADLINE, ALBEIT WITH CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN SOME CASES.

3. THE FOLLOWING BOX SCORE OF INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN BRUSSELS WILL PROVIDE ADDRESSEE POSTS A SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS TO DATE ON MEMBER STATE NATIONAL LEGISLATION FOR EP DIRECT ELECTIONS:

(1) BELGIUM: ACT OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1976 RATIFIED BY THE BELGIAN PARLIAMENT ON DECEMBER 1, 1977. LETTER OF NOTIFICATION SENT TO EC COUNCIL. ELECTORAL BILL IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

(2) DENMARK: ACT OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1976 RATIFIED
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BY THE FOLKETING ON DECEMBER 2, 1977. LETTER OF NOTIFICATION SENT TO EC COUNCIL. ELECTORAL BILL ADOPTED SAME DAY (PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION, WITH NATIONAL LISTS; ALL DANES RESIDING ABROAD CAN VOTE).

(3) FRG: ACT OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1976 RATIFIED BY BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN JUNE 1977. LETTER OF NOTIFICATION SENT TO EC COUNCIL. ELECTORAL BILL WAS APPROVED BY THE BUNDESTAG MARCH 30, 1977 BUT WAS REJECTED BY THE BUNDESRAT IN MAY, 1977. A FINAL DECISION IS EXPECTED BY MARCH.

(4) FRANCE: ACT OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1976 RATIFIED BY BOTH HOUSES IN JUNE, 1977. LETTER OF NOTIFICATION NOT YET SENT TO EC COUNCIL. ELECTORAL BILL APPROVED AT THE END OF JUNE, 1977 BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE. THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM IS BASED ON PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION WITH NATIONAL LISTS.

(5) IRELAND: ACT OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1976 RATIFIED BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT (NO PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL REQUIRED) ON DECEMBER 8, 1977. LETTER OF NOTIFICATION SENT TO EC

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COUNCIL. ELECTORAL BILL APPROVED THE SAME DAY.

(6) ITALY: ACT OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1976 RATIFIED BY BOTH HOUSES IN JANUARY, 1977. LETTER OF NOTIFICATION SENT TO EC COUNCIL. ELECTORAL BILL EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED WITHIN MARCH/APRIL 1978 TIMEFRAME.

(7) LUXEMBOURG: ACT OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1976 RATIFIED BY THE LUXEMBOURG PARLIAMENT IN JULY, 1977. LETTER OF NOTIFICATION SENT TO EC COUNCIL. ELECTORAL BILL EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED IN MARCH.

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
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R 241848Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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BY BOTH HOUSES IN JUNE 1977. LETTER OF NOTIFICATION NOT YET SENT TO EC COUNCIL. ELECTORAL BILL IS EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED MARCH/APRIL. PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM TO BE FOLLOWED WITH NATIONAL LISTS.

(9) UNITED KINGDOM: ACT OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1976 APPROVED BY HOUSE OF COMMONS IN NOVEMBER 1977. RATIFICATION (WHICH IS DONE BY THE GOVERNMENT) IS DEPENDENT UPON FINAL ADOPTION OF ELECTORAL BILL, WHICH CURRENTLY IS UNDER DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT. HINTON

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Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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